

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 PC-01

ACDA-07 OC-06 CCO-00 SY-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 MCT-01

OPR-02 A-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 SCA-01 SCS-03

DHA-02 EB-08 AID-05 /116 W

-----170335Z 073082 /62

O 151140Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2317

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASH DC IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER//ECJ4-7 IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

DIA WASH DC IMMEDIATE

USIA WASH DC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 KINSHASA 2283

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - TEXT PARA 3(A)(3)

PASS PEACE CORPS

USIA FOR IAA, IOP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, PINS, AEMR, CG, AO

SUBJECT: OPERATION SHABA, SITREP 6

1. FOLLOWING IS SIXTH MISSION-WIDE SURVEY INCLUDING REPORTS
FROM LUBUMBASHI:

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MILITARY SITUATION:

2. ENEMY FORCES:

(A) HOSTILE FORCES OCCUPIED KASAJI PM 14 MARCH AFTER HEAVY
STREET FIGHTING, ACCORDING TO FAZ REPORTS, THE ENEMY AT KASAJI
IS ARMED WITH "LONG RANGE CANNON." HOSTILE FORCES MM CONTROL THE

RAILROAD FROM DILOLO UP TO KASAJI.

(B) SANDOA FELL TO ENEMY FORCES AM 15 MARCH AT 0715Z
ACCORDING TO MISSIONARIES IN RADIO CONTACT WITH AMCONSULATE
LUBUMBASHI. ACCORDING FAZ SOURCES, FAZ TROOPS HAD OCCUPIED
SANDOA 14 MARCH.

(C) HOSTILE FORCES STILL HOLD KAPANGA ON THE NORTHERN
FLANK AND KISENGE ON THE SOUTH.

(D) THERE ARE PERSISTENT ALBEIT UNCONFIRMED REPORTS FROM
VARIOUS SOURCES THAT IN THE MONTHS PRIOR TO THE ATTACKS IN
SHABA, THE AREA WAS INFILTRATED BY KATANGAN GENDARMES IN
CIVILIAN CLOTHES AND ARMS CACHES ESTABLISHED.

3. ZAIRIAN FORCES:

(A) ACCORDING TO FAZ AUTHORITIES, THE DISPOSITION OF
ZAIRIAN TROOPS IN SHABA AS OF PM 14 MARCH WAS AS FOLLOWS:

(1) 2ND PARA BATTALION

1 COMPANY AND HEADQUARTERS ELEMENTS AT MUTSHASA

1 COMPANY AT SANDOA

1 COMPANY WITHDRAWING FROM KASAJI.

(2) ARMORED TROOP C IS ATTACHED TO THE 2ND PARA.

(3) 3RD COMMANDO BATTALION IS AT KOLWEZIM

(4) 2 BATTALIONS OF THE MIKONDO BRIGADE ARE AT LUBUMBASHI.

(5) THE THIRD BATTALION OF THE MIKONDO BRIGADE IS AT KAMINA.

(B) ACCORDING TO FAZ AUTHORITIES, FOUR C-130 SORTIES CARRIED
FUEL AND AMMUNITION TO SHABA 14 MARCH. ONE C-130 TOOK OFF ON
THREE ENGINES DUE TO LACK OF SPARE PARTS.

(C) FOUR MIRAGES WERE MOVED FROM LUBUMBASHI TO KAMINA 14
MARCH.

(D) ACCORDING TO THE FRENCH MILITARY ATTACHE, THE THREE
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MACCHI AIRCRAFT WHICH REPORTEDLY HAD LEFT KINSHASA 13 MARCH
FOR SHABA DEVELOPED ENGINE TROUBLE AND HAD TO RETURN TO
KINSHASA.

DOMESTIC PRESS REACTION:

4. ZAIRIAN MEDIA STRESS MARCH 15 GOZ CHARGE THAT MERCENARIES
ARE "OFFICERED BY OTHER MERCENARIES COMING FROM ACROSS THE
ATLANTIC AND SUPPORTED BY THIRD COUNTRIES FOR THE NEEDS OF
IDEOLOGICAL CONQUEST." "SALONGO" AND ZAIRE PRESS AGENCY
BULLETIN ALSO CARRY SAME CLAIM WHICH WAS USED IN BACKGROUND/
INFORMATION MEETING WITH FOREIGN MISSIONS IN KINSHASA. "ELIMA"
EDITORIAL CONTINUES TO STRESS THE NEED FOR DIALOGUE--"ZAIRE
HAS NEVER LOST SIGHT OF THE IMPERATIVE NECESSITY TO DEVELOP
FRIENDLY RELATIONS AMONG NATIONS FOUNDED ON THE RESPECT OF
THE EQUALITY OF RIGHTS." STILL, CARRYING THROUGH ON ANOTHER
THEME OF RECENT DAYS, THE EDITORIAL NOTES THAT IT WILL ONLY
BE "AN AFFAIR OF SEVERAL DAYS" TO RECAPTURE THOSE AREAS
FALLEN TO THE INVADERS "THANKS TO THE FIERCE DETERMINATION

OF OUR VALIANT NATIONAL ARMY...THE FIGHT WILL CONTINUE UNTIL
THE LAST OF THESE MERCENARIES HAVE BEEN KICKED OUT OF THE
COUNTRY."

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DIA WASH DC IMMEDIATE

USIA WASH DC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 KINSHASA 2283/2

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - TEXT (PARA 5 LINE 6)

DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION:

5. IN KINSHASA IT IS BUSINESS AS USUAL AND THE GOZ IS PROJECTING
PUBLICLY AN IMAGE OF QUIET CONFIDENCE. NEVERTHELESS, AS MORE
FACTS ABOUT THE INVASION REACH THE POPULATION, WE ARE GETTING
A MORE DEFINITE RESPONSE. MOST ZAIRIANS, IT WOULD APPEAR, REGARD
THE INVADERS AS EX-KATANGAN GENDARMES WHO ARE RENEWING AN
INTERNAL ZAIRIAN STRUGGLE. TWO MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU TOLD
A LOCAL EMPLOYEE THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SHOULD REGARD
THE STRUGGLE AS PRIMARILY INTERNAL. THEY STATED THAT SPECIAL

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AND OVERT AMERICAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE AT THIS TIME WOULD BE REGARDED BY MOST CITIZENS AS UNDESIRABLE SUPPORT FOR AN INEFFECTIVE AND CORRUPT REGIME. WE ASSUME THAT THESE POLITICAL BUREAU MEMBERS INTENDED FOR THE INFORMATION TO GET TO US.

6. THE EMBASSY HAS ALSO JUST RECEIVED A PRESS COMMUNIQUE POSTMARKED IN KINSHASA AND PURPORTING TO BE FROM THE FNLC. THE COMMUNIQUE CONFIRMS THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE PARIS BASED SECTION OF THE FNLC REGARDING THE IDENTITY OF THE INVADERS AS EX-KATANGAN GENDARMES.

7. AS OF 1000Z MARCH 15, THE SITUATION IN KOLWEZI AND LUBUMBASHI IS REPORTED AS CALM.

DIPLOMATIC SITUATION:

8. ZAIRIAN NATIONAL RADIO CHARGED MARCH 14 THAT "THE DISMEMBERMENT OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY AND THE AGRESSION AGAINST ZAIRE ARE DISQUIETING SIGNS OF THE EXISTENCE OF A MACHIAVELLIAN PLAN DEvised BY THE SO-CALLED FRONT LINE STATES." THERE HAVE HOWEVER, BEEN NO OTHER REFERENCES TO THE FRONT LINE STATES IN THE ZAIRIAN MEDIA ON MARCH 14.

9. COMMISSIONER OF STATE NGUZA IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH AFRICAN AMBASSADORS TODAY TO DISCUSS WITH THEM THE EVENTS IN SHABA.

AMERICAN CITIZEN SITUATION:

10. COMMANDANT OF HOSTILE FORCES OCCUPYING SANDOA MISSION (12 KMS WEST OF SANDOA) ORDERED THE TWO REMAINING AMCIT MISSIONARIES TO HALT RADIO CONTACT AS OF 0715Z MARCH 15. COMMANDANT SENT RADIO MESSAGE SAYING THAT THE TWO MISSIONARIES WOULD BE TREATED WELL. METHODIST MISSIONARY SOURCE IN KINSHASA CONFIRMS THAT SANDOA MISSION FAILED TO MAKE SCHEDULED RADIO CONTACT THIS
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MORNING.

11. NO RADIO TRANSMISSIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM KAPANGA MISSION SINCE MARCH 12. AT THAT TIME ALL EIGHT METHODIST MISSIONARIES WERE WELL.

12. AS OF 0430Z, MARCH 15 CONSTRUCTEURS INGA-SHABA (CIS) PROJECT MANAGER IN KOLWEZI REPORTS CITY CALM. CIS AIRCRAFT PRESENTLY

EN ROUTE FOR EVACUATION OF 26 CIS DEPENDENTS FROM KOLWEZI.
DEPENDENTS WILL SAFEHAVEN TEMPORARILY IN KANANGA UNTIL CIS CAN
DETERMINE IF THE CIS AIRCRAFT MIGHT BE NEEDED LATER IF THE
EVACUATION OF THE REMAINDER OF CIS EMPLOYEES BECOMES NECESSARY.
FYI--THE SECOND CIS DC-3 COMPLETED ENGINE CHANGE THIS MORNING
AND HAS DEPARTED KINSHASA FOR KANANGA. CIS IS ALSO MOVING ITS
TWO HELICOPTERS TO KANANGA.

PRESS GUIDANCE:

13. IN LIGHT OF EVACUATION OF AMCIT DEPENDENTS FROM KOLWEZI,
SUGGEST FOLLOWING BE ADDED TO CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE:

QUESTION: IN ADDITION TO THE 10 AMERICAN MISSIONARIES AT
KAPANGA AND SANDOA, HOW MANY OTHER AMERICAN CITIZENS ARE THERE
IN WESTERN SHABA?

ANSWER: THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 90 AMERICANS OF WHOM 82 ARE
EMPLOYEES OF AN AMERICAN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY BASED AT KOLWEZI
TO THE WEST OF LUBUMBASHI.

QUESTION: ARE THERE ANY PLANS TO EVACUATE THESE PERSONS?

ANSWER: WE UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR EMPLOYER, CONSTRUCTEURS INGA-
SHABA, A SUBSIDIARY OF MORRISON-KNUDSEN INTERNATIONAL COMPANY
OF BOISE, IDAHO, IS MAKING PLANS TO EVACUATE THE DEPENDENTS
(26 IN ALL) OF THESE EMPLOYEES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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SAS ID: 3106483
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: OPERATION SHABA, SITREP 6
TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, PINS, AEMR, CG, AO
To: STATE
Type: TE
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